



NFPA 5000 ADOPTION STAFF UPDATE

The NFPA 5000 adoption is underway! We have some very exciting months ahead of us, but we are not alone. NFPA is providing unprecedented technical and financial support. We have a tremendous opportunity to lead the nation in adopting the only building code developed and approved by all interested parties. We are part of the driving force in the effort to embrace the bright, new future of consensus code development. This update will be provided on a regular basis to keep staff informed of the progress of the code adoption. If you would like to provide input to the adoption process, please contact Joe McElvaney at 534-9273.

Sub Group 1 ADMINISTRATION

Chairperson: Ben Barcon

DAB Support: Patricia Childs

Outside Support: Carlo Gegen,
Dan Watson, Courtney Gilstrap

DSD Staff Support: Rick Doell,
Bob Goodhue, Deneé McKinley

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Friday, 11/15/02

Time: 10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.

Sub Group 2 RESIDENTIAL

Chairperson: Pete Hemingway

DAB Support: Darrell Wilson

Outside Support: Russ Brock,
Steve Curtis, Tracy Finley, Paul
Scott, Carl Triphahn

DSD Staff Support: Rick
Doell, Bob Goodhue, Joe
McElvaney, Tom Wandrie

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Wednesdays - 11/20/02, 12/04/02,
12/11/02, 12/18/02, 01/08/03,
01/15/03, 01/22/03

Time: 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Sub Group 3 COMMERCIAL

Chairperson: Larry Litchfield

DAB Support: Barbara Koffron,
Gary Coley

Outside Support: AIA Members,
BOMA, Other interested parties

DSD Staff Support: Rick Doell,
Joe McElvaney

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Thursdays - 11/21/02, 12/12/02,
01/09/03, 01/23/03

Time: 11:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Sub Group 4 ACCESSIBILITY

Chairperson: Scott Mardian

DAB Support: Mike Colletto

Outside Support: Russ Brock,
Peggy Brown

DSD Staff Support: Rick Doell,
Joe McElvaney, Janet Reed

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, 11/21/02, 12/10/02,
12/17/02, 01/07/03, 01/14/03,
01/21/03

Time: 1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Sub Group 5 ENERGY

Chairperson: Michael Fries

DAB Support: Greg Russell, Steve
Speer

Outside Support: Russ Brock,
Mayor's Commission

DSD Staff Support: Rick Doell,
Joe McElvaney

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, 11/26/02, 12/03/02,
12/10/02, 12/17/02, 12/24/02,
01/09/03, 01/16/03, 01/23/03

Time: 8:30 a.m.— 10:30 p.m.

Sub Group 6 STRUCTURAL

Chairperson: Danny Ortega

DAB Support: Ben Barcon

Outside Support: John Brestin,
Stephen Schwan, David Hayes, Dave
Schutt

DSD Staff Support: Rick Doell, Joe
McElvaney, Mark Sipes

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Tuesdays, 11/19/02, 11/26/02,
12/03/02, 12/10/02, 12/18/02,
01/14/03, 01/21/03

Time: 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 p.m.

Over the last couple of years, many of us have been wondering about the fuss being made concerning the development of a building code. NFPA, ICC. . . What is going on? Well, if we take a step back and look at the history of code development in the United States, we see this is not a new battle. The same issues we are dealing with today were faced decades ago. ICBO came into existence because building officials didn't like the closed process used in code development...sound familiar? Here is a story for your enjoyment about the history of building code development in the United States.

A Building Code Fable

*Once upon a time, in a past not that long ago...*there was a single major model building code – the National Building Code (NBC). This was an



evil code in the eyes of many as it was selfishly controlled by an association of insurance underwriters and no one outside of their organization, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, had any vote in changes or material makeup of the code.

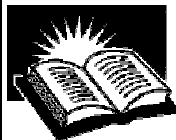
Southern California's building officials took exception to the exclusivity of the production of this code and decided that it was time to create their own code. Thirteen building officials met to form an alliance, the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, known later as the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and thus gave birth to the Uniform Building Code. The early code was met with harsh criticism from supporters of the established code. The new alliance felt that the criticism was unfair, as the criticism was founded in the selfish interests of the backers of the NBC code.



Then, the Southern building officials decided to protect

themselves from the requirements of foreign codes, from lands as far as 2000 miles away! Their hope was to regionalize the code, to protect what was suited for the building conditions of the South. Arising from this debate was the Southern Building Code, brought forward by the Southern Building Code Congress (now SBCCI).

But the building officials of the East were not to be ignored. Together, they created yet another model code, the Basic Building Code, bringing the fourth model building code into existence. The organization they formed was called the Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA). Their dissatisfaction with the closed process of the National Building Code galvanized their purpose in creating their own code.



In time, the building officials had won and slew the evil code. All of their codes survived the gauntlet of slurs and accusations that their codes were unsafe, too costly, and none of the groups had ever written a building code before. The arguments of the supporters of the NBC code were proven false and the new codes, controlled by building officials (as no one else other than building officials could vote on the final changes and material makeup of the codes) lived and prospered.

*Once upon a time, in the present...*the three model code groups realized that they shared so much that it was time to again be one. Together they endeavored to consolidate their codes and create a single model code regulating body, one solely controlled by them. Perfect they thought. Their individual codes retired, they were now united and issued a single model building code.

Hold on, said industry. They didn't like the fact that the new, single model code – the International Building Code (IBC) - was

controlled by an association of building code officials with no one outside of the association having any final vote in the changes or material makeup of the new code. So, represented by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), industry representatives, design professionals, construction professionals, and other interested parties gave birth to a new model code, the NFPA 5000.

Like the other model codes before it, the NFPA 5000 code has been unfairly criticized with unfounded claims that it is unsafe, too costly, and NFPA had never written a building code before.

*The moral to this story...*if history truly repeats itself, and based on what you've read here it seems to, the new NFPA Building/Construction code will be successful and will survive the unfounded criticism of an untested newborn.



Note: The facts used as a basis for this fable were found in Robert E O'Bannon's book, Building Department Administration. This book was published in 1989 by the International Conference of Building Officials.